



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Sustainable Fisheries Division
7600 Sand Point Way N. E., Building. 1, Bin C15700
Seattle, WA 98115-0070

DATE: May 21, 2003
TO: DISTRIBUTION
FROM: F/NWR2 -Becky Renko
SUBJECT: PRELIMINARY Report #1 -- 2003 Pacific Whiting Fishery

This report consolidates preliminary state, federal, and tribal data for the 2003 Pacific whiting fishery off Washington, Oregon, and California. The catcher/processor and non-tribal mothership fishery started on May 15. The shore-based season in most of the Eureka area (between 42°- 40°30' N. lat.) began on April 1, and the fishery south of 40°30' N. lat. opened April 15. If it is determined that the shore-based whiting fishery south of 42° N. lat. will reach its allocation before the shore-based fishery north of 42° N. lat. begins (June 15) the primary season for Pacific whiting fishery south of 42° N. lat. will be temporarily closed.

	Allocation		Catch (mt)	Thru [date]	Status	Percent of allocation taken
	Percentages	Metric Tons				
California (south of 42 N lat.)	(5% shore alloc'n; included in WOC shore allocation)	2,545	644	5/8	CA season started April 1; 5% alloc'n	25.3%
Oregon	--	NA				
Washington	--	NA				
WOC shoreside	42% commercial OY	50,904	644			1.2%
Mothership (n. of 42 N. lat.)	24% commercial OY	29,088	6,774	5/19	started 0001 hrs 5/15/00	23.3%
Catcher/processor (n. of 42 N. lat.)	34% commercial OY	41,208	3,185	5/19	started 0001 hrs 5/15/00	7.7%
Total nontribal	commercial OY (% OY)	121,200	10,603		--	8.7%
Tribal (Makah)	% OY	25,000	0			
Total directed fishing		146,200	10,603			7.2%
Other (research & incidental catch in non-groundfish fisheries)		2,000	unknown			
Total	OY=optimum yield	148,200	10,603	--	--	7.1%

* Catch includes discards from at-sea processors; weigh-backs from shore-based catcher vessels; and small amounts landed under the trip limit between the seasons. The data for at-sea processing (catcher/processors and motherships) are preliminary and are based on reports from NMFS-certified observers. Data for shoreside processors also are preliminary and are provided by each State to NMFS for the purpose of monitoring the fishery. If you have questions on shoreside landings, please contact the appropriate state fishery management agency. Preliminary data for the Makah fishery will be from a NMFS-trained observer. All weights are round weight (the weight of the whole fish before processing) or round-weight equivalents. One metric ton is 2,204.6 pounds.